



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley
Secretary

Darrell B. Mobley
Deputy Secretary

March 9, 2011

Mr. David Valenstein
Division Chief, Office of Passenger and Freight Programs
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, MS-20
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Valenstein:

On behalf of my colleagues from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), I write to thank you for the constructive meeting on March 2, 2011 with us and our partners at CSX railroad to discuss the relocation of a critical rail-truck intermodal facility in the State of Maryland.

This project is a top priority for Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley and was addressed in a February 8, 2011 meeting between the Governor and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. Significant benefits will result from relocating the facility and enabling access to an emerging double-stack network – the National Gateway Initiative. Among the many outcomes we anticipate from this project are improved national and regional economic competitiveness for the Port of Baltimore and the Baltimore-Washington region; new freight jobs and better utilization of existing warehousing; reduced shipping costs; a shift from long-haul trucking to rail which will yield positive effects in air quality, traffic congestion and roadway maintenance; and expanded capacity for growth in freight and commuter rail in Maryland.

In light of the significance of the project to the State and our desire to fully evaluate this project using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, we were very pleased by your offer to provide assistance in the development of the project purpose and need. We also appreciate your guidance with respect to the use of functional criteria to move the project forward, inform the evaluation of candidate sites, and allow for consideration of a subset of sites that meets the basic operational requirements necessary for such a facility. Further, as we indicated in our meeting, we intend to pursue federal monies for this project and hope that the resulting, comprehensive NEPA document will aid in solidifying our eligibility and competitiveness for any federal funding.

We look forward to reviewing the Findings of No Significant Impact associated with other rail facilities that have recently been awarded federal funding, once these documents become available for public review. We also stand ready to begin work on the NEPA requirements as soon as possible with staff from the Federal Railroad Administration and, if deemed appropriate, the Federal Highway Administration. This is an extraordinarily busy time for both of these

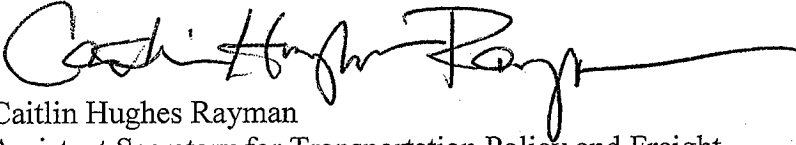
My telephone number is _____
Toll Free Number 1-888-713-1414 TTY Users Call Via MD Relay
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076

Mr. David Valenstein
Page Two

transportation agencies and we are grateful for the support of U.S. Department of Transportation as we seek to engage the public in planning for this critical transportation improvement.

Thank you again for your assistance. Please contact me regarding the next steps at (410) 865-1092 or by email at crayman@mdot.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caitlin Hughes Rayman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Caitlin Hughes Rayman
Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy and Freight

cc: Mr. Gregory Nadeau, Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Robert Mariner, Senior Policy Analyst, U.S. Department of Transportation
Ms. Catherine Dobbs, J.D., Environmental Protection Specialist, Federal Railroad Administration
Mr. Edward Strocko, Transportation Specialist, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Keith Brinker, Manager Environmental Remediation, CSX Transportation, Inc.
Mr. Chip Dobson, Jr., Director of Strategic Transactions, CSX Transportation, Inc.
Mr. Quintin Kendall, Regional Vice President of State Government Affairs, CSX Transportation, Inc.
Mr. Bradley Smith, Project Manager, Office of Freight and Multimodalism, Maryland Department of Transportation
Mr. Dominic Wiker, Project Manager, Maryland Transportation Authority